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Lebanon: The possibility of a new cabinet being formed now appears dim.

Caretaker Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who on 20 May accepted Premier Hilu's proposed new fedayeen policy and agreed to form a new cabinet, has suddenly shifted his position. He now refuses to accept Hilu's suggested restrictions on fedayeen activities in Lebanon unless the fedayeen, acting through Egyptian intermediaries, also agree to accept them.

Hilu, who does not wish to be put in a position of retreating from his tough stance, is pessimistic about the possibility of the fedayeen accepting the restrictions. Hilu has said if Karami does not respond to pressure from him during the coming week or so, Hilu will ask another Muslim politician to form a cabinet.

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